

Message Text

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72

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SPC-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06

SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /204 W
----- 083834

R 261933Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9274

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 6121

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EC

SUBJECT: AN OCCASION FOR THANKSGIVING

THE HOLIDAY RECENTLY PAST WAS AN OCCASION FOR THANKS-
GIVING ON NUMEROUS COUNTS, NOT LEAST BECAUSE WITH MY
SECOND VISIT TO GUAYAQUIL NOW SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 3,
THE END OF A TWO MONTH'S ROUND OF OFFICIAL CALLS IS AT
LONG LAST IN SIGHT. I WILL BY THEN HAVE PAID OFFICIAL
VISITS TO 12 CABINET MINISTERS, 3 RELIGIOUS FIGURES, 26
CHIEFS OF MISSION, 12 OTHER CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS,
AND 7 ASSORTED LOCAL DIGNITARIES, SUCH AS FORMER PRESIDENTS,
GOVERNORS, MAYORS, AND THE LIKE. IT HAS BEEN A USUALLY
INTERESTING, SOMETIMES BORING, OCCASIONALLY ONEROUS, BUT
GENERALLY REWARDING EXERCISE. I HAVE TWO GENERAL
IMPRESSIONS FROM IT ALL:

1. ALL ECUADOREANS RECEIVED ME COURTEOUSLY AND CIVILLY
AND MOST OF THEM EXPRESSED THEIR HOPE FOR CLOSER RELATIONS
WITH THE U.S. WHILE ONE WOULD NORMALLY EXPECT SOME SUCH
EXPRESSIONS, THE BREADTH OF THE SENTIMENT AND WHAT OFTEN
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SEEMED TO ME THE WARMTH OF IT WAS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT THAN

WHAT I HAD EXPECTED. WHETHER THIS DESIRE FOR CLOSER RELATIONS CAN SURVIVE THE TEST OF PRACTICAL PROBLEM SOLVING, WHETHER IT CAN BE TRANSLATED INTO ANYTHING CONCRETE, IS, AS A FORMER CHIEF OF MINE USED TO SAY, A HORSE FROM ANOTHER GARAGE. BUT THE DESIRE EXISTS.

2. AMONG THOSE OF MY COLLEAGUES WHO ARE GENERALLY CONSIDERED TO BE WELL INFORMED, THERE IS A CONSENSUS THAT THE RODRIGUEZ GOVERNMENT HAS GAINED STRENGTH IN RECENT MONTHS AND THAT IT IS SINCERELY TRYING TO GOVERN IN WHAT IT VIEWS AS THE INTERESTS OF THE COUNTRY. THEY BELIEVE IT

HAD SOME REAL SUCCESS

(I.E., ITS PETROLEUM POLICY),

ALTHOUGH THEY SEE SOME PROBLEMS AHEAD TOO, SUCH AS THOSE CREATED BY THE POLITICAL IMPACT OF RISING PRICES. WHILE THEY SHARE OUR DIFFICULTY IN PLACING THIS GOVERNMENT IN AN IDEOLOGICAL PIGEONHOLE, SOME FIND MERIT IN THE CHARACTERIZATION OF THE GOE AS "TALKING LIKE PERU BUT ACTING LIKE BRAZIL". MOST, I SUPPOSE, WOULD AGREE WITH THE GOE'S OWN THESIS THAT THIS IS A "NATIONAL", WHICH IS TO SAY, VERY ECUADOREAN GOVERNMENT.
BREWSTER

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